

## **FIRE PROTECTION POLICY BOARD**

### **MEETING**

**May 26 2004**

**General Administration Building  
Olympia, WA**

**Board Members Present:** TJ Nedrow, Jennifer Gregerson, Joe Coultman, Buck Lane, Jim Broman. Janet Paulson, Mark Kahley and Sharon Colby

**WSP Staff Present:** Steve Kalmbach, Ellen Tombleson, Dan Johnson, Bob Gagner, Heidi Thomsen and Anjela Foster

**Standing Committee:** Dave Wakefield, Chair-State Fire Defense Committee

**Guests Present:** Bill Reuter and Harold McKee

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA-**

Following introductions the agenda was approved, with the addition of Election of Chair and Vice-Chair.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***MOTION:*** Joe Coultman moved, and TJ Nedrow seconded to approve both the February 25, 2004 Regular Meeting minutes and the April 28, 2004 Work Session Notes.

***Motion passes. Unanimous.***

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

***MOTION:*** Jim Broman moved and Joe Coultman seconded to retain Sharon Colby as Chair.

***Motion passes. Unanimous.***

***MOTION:*** Joe Coultman moved and Jim Broman seconded to elect TJ Nedrow as Vice-Chair.

***Motion passes. Unanimous.***

### **REPORTS**

**STATE FIRE MARSHAL –** Steve Kalmbach reported that:

- Training has been completed for preparation for the 2004 fire season, which is predicted be an active season.
- Don Easton, who has been hired as the Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal in charge of fire investigations, Plan Review and Licensing will begin on June 28.
- 331 fire agencies reported NFIRS 5.0 data for 2003

Steve distributed copies of the fireworks "Celebrate Legally" campaign materials which will be distributed to fire and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

### **Standards and Accreditation –**

Deputy State Fire Marshal Barbara Gagner presented a Decision Item on the Adoption of the 1003 Airport Firefighter Professional Qualifications Standards, 2000 Edition and reported that this item went through two public hearings, with no concerns expressed at the public hearings. Barb also advised that NFPA is scheduled to perform a review of 1003 in 2005, which would give three years before having to change over.

**MOTION:** Jim Broman moved and Buck Lane seconded to adopt the 1003 Airport Firefighter Professional Qualifications Standards, 2000 Edition for Airport Firefighters.

**Discussion on the Motion –** Guests present spoke in support of the adoption and provided a background on the history of the reason for this proposal. In answer to his question, Joe Coultsman was advised that the TAG did have contact with other airport firefighters in the state, and that the meetings were very versatile and that eastern and western Washington firefighters were invited and that input was received from Yakima and SeaTac.

Jim Broman wanted to address a statement in the third paragraph of the Decision item that states that "The Technical Advisory Group agreed that a currency process should be adopted for the Airport Firefighter level." Jim wanted to make note for the record that the FPPB and the state of Washington has looked at the issue of currency and certification system a number of times, and while everyone on the FPPB is strong advocates of remaining current and currency issues, that this subject is fraught with logistical problems and challenges, and he wants to ensure that the TAG understands that they should not get too far in the process without seeing what else is going in the state in the area of currency and potential recertification.

Barb thanked Bill and Harold for their efforts in ensuring the preparation and adoption of the standards.

**Motion passes. Unanimous.**

**MOTION:** Joe Coultsman moved and Jim Broman seconded to grant re-accreditation to the Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Subsidiary Emergency Vehicle Accident Prevention program for a period of 5 years.

**Motion passes. Unanimous.**

**Following the Motion,** TJ commented that in dealing with the EVAP programs that he encourages Barb to re-evaluate the portion of the training that deals with firefighter safety in the placement of vehicles and the operations of suppression at incidents. Jim Broman concurred with TJ's concerns, and advised that under the JOPS program (Joint Operating Policy Statement) there is a traffic incident management training system. Jim feels that the best direction that can be given is that whoever is holding the standard for EVAP, to make the connection with those involved in the JOPS to determine which elements of that training could be incorporated within the EVAP standard, to ensure consistency and possibly add some components.

Steve Kalmbach advised that he would have his program staff available to present information and program updates at future Board meetings and Work Sessions, as necessary.

**Basic Firefighter Training Program** - Steve Kalmbach advised that he would be presenting information on behalf of Chuck King, who is at the National Fire Academy participating in a grant review. Steve provided handouts detailing progress in the marketing of the program and an overview of the program budget. Steve advised Mark Kahley that he would ensure that the Wildland Fire Fighting II statistics he had requested were forwarded to him after the meeting.

Steve advised that staff are currently preparing for re-printing of the program manual. Sharon advised that when the re-printing is done, that the FPPB be included on the cover of the program manual.

Steve also provided a list detailing the presentations Chuck has provided on the Program. Sharon advised she had attended the presentation in Walla Walla and was impressed with the passion and enthusiasm Chuck has for this program.

In answer to a concern raised by TJ regarding the possible view of the legislature regarding remaining funds, Steve advised that they fully expect that all allotments for this program will be expended.

Sharon also provided the reminder that this program is now referred to as the Basic Fire Fighter Training Program, and not the Firefighter I Program, as the program goes beyond the level of FF I.

Steve provided a copy of the first State Fire Marshal Newsletter being published by the State Fire Marshal's Office. Steve asked that the Board review the newsletter and provide any feedback they may have to Anjela Foster.

Steve advised that Rob Neale was been hired as the new Fire Training Academy Administrator, and will begin at the FTA in the next few days.

TJ advised that the Washington State Association of State Chiefs, the Washington State Firefighters Association and the State Fire Marshal's Office has been trying to collect data, as it relates to fire departments and personnel. TJ Stated that Anjela Foster provided information to him that indicates that the Bureau will be sending out a 3<sup>rd</sup> survey in an effort to reach the departments that have not submitted a response. Joe Coulman requested that he be sent a copy of the list of responders/non-responders, and advised that if he had the list, he would work with the King County departments to get their information in.

In regard to the survey turnout, Jim Broman advised that he does not feel the survey was well publicized and the purpose of the survey was not well defined.

TJ advised that he would work with Anjela to determine when the next survey is scheduled to be sent out and see if there are some improvements that could be made.

### **State Fire Defense Committee –**

Dave Wakefield provided a handout of the 2004 Mobilization Plan Update, Sections 1-20. Comments on these sections will be discussed at the July Work Session. He also thanked Dan Johnson, Tom McDowell and Bill Walkup for their efforts in revising the plan.

In response to Jim Broman's request for an overview of Section 11 – Resource Configuration, Dave advised that the updated plan includes module configurations.

In regard to on-going discussion on death and disability coverage, Jim called attention to the third paragraph of the first page of Section 17. He noted that there is information that references insurance coverage for volunteers. Jim advised that through discussions at the Washington State Leadership Forum, they are now referring to these personnel as Non-LEOFF, non-PERS members. He also advised that if they are working as employees of the WSP, their insurance coverage would be through L & I. He pointed out that it is an important issue for fire agencies to ensure their people do not expect to have death and disability coverage through the Board for Volunteer Firefighters. Jim stated that he feels the term "insurance" is a very broad term and that it needs to be specified that this is also referring to death and disability coverage, and that people should be urged to do investigate their own circumstances in depth before they make the decision to participate in a mobilization.

Discussion was held regarding the possible formation of task force to perform origin and cause investigations of all wildland mobilizations and the issue of cost recovery. In response to a question raised by Buck Lane regarding property bought by the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife in Asotin County, Mark Kahley advised that DNR is in discussion with the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife on various areas that are unprotected. He advised that the Department of Fish & Wildlife does contract with DNR on numerous areas that are unprotected.

### **E911 –**

Jim Potts advised that nearly all of the counties have Phase 1 Operations working, and have already applied for Phase II, or are in the process of implementing Phase II.

Jim advised that voice-over internet is a new concern that is occurring and causing havoc with the E911 system, as dispatchers do not know where the calls are originating from.

Jim advised that he is willing to continue serving on the E911 Committee as the Fire Protection Policy Board's representative on a short term basis, until a replacement is decided upon. Following discussion it was agreed that Jim would coordinate with both Joe and Buck on E911 Committee issues and identifying a permanent replacement on the Committee could be re-addressed in the future.

### **SIEC –**

Jim the Committee has adopted an Interim Interoperability Executive Plan which essentially provides new direction to state agencies on how the communication (principally radio) frequencies may be reassigned and reconfigured to provide command interoperability between the major players at an incident. The next task is to conduct a local government survey to determine the status of communication resources (equipment and frequencies).

## **OLD BUSINESS –**

In discussion regarding the new committee of the FPPB, it was agreed that it should be referred to as the “Advisory Committee” until the Committee meets and can determine their own name. Dr. Barnard provided an update to the membership list that was distributed with the Board packets. In review of the Advisory Committee make up, Bob advised that the Washington State Council of Firefighters declined to provide a representative to the Committee. He further advised that the membership objective was met, as applications were submitted from two representatives from each of the major fire service organizations, and back filling with members at large who self nominated where there wasn't geographical coverage provided from the fire service organization representatives. Bob provided background on the overall intent to have a Committee member in each of the designated geographical areas. The 7 regions were established based on geographic and demographic distribution of where the firefighters were.

In discussion regarding representatives, Jim Broman requested that Eric Quitsland, Chair of the Higher Education Association (primarily includes Fire Program Coordinators at Community Colleges) be contacted to provide a representative. Bob advised that he would make the necessary contact to obtain a Higher Education representative.

***MOTION:*** It was moved and seconded to accept the membership list as presented, with the addition of Eric Quitsland.

***Motion passes. Unanimous.***

Steve Kalmbach advised that he would provide the name of the State Fire Marshal's Office representative on the Advisory Committee.

Bob advised that the first meeting is scheduled for June 21 and that he would distribute a tentative agenda for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Jim Broman suggested that in the first meeting of the Advisory Committee that it may be a good idea to invite the Chair or members of the State Fire Defense Committee to talk to the group about the process of writing a statewide plan, and identifying some of the common pitfalls. Dave advised that he would work with Bob on this.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Sharon provided an overview of a meeting with WSP Chief Lowell Porter and the following representatives of the major fire service associations:

Kelly Fox	Washington State Council of Fire Fighters
Joan Miller	Washington Fire Commissioners Association
Duane Malo	Washington State Association of Fire Chiefs
Ron Roy	Washington State Association of Fire Fighters
David Lynam	Washington State Association of Fire Marshals
Anjela Foster	WSP – State Fire Marshal's Office
Diane Perry	WSP – Management Services Bureau
Sharon Colby	Fire Protection Policy Board

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the process for selecting the State Fire Marshal replacement. The process will be facilitated through an Executive Search Committee, who will work in concert with Fire Protection Policy Board.

Sharon reviewed RCW 43.43.938 and pointed out that this RCW gives the Fire Protection Policy Board the responsibility of setting the job qualifications for the position and to provide a list of three candidates for the Chief to select from.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a Special Meeting be held to specifically address the issue of identifying the job qualifications. The Special Meeting will be held at 11:30 on June 21, at the Tumwater Fire Department.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00.

**Next Meeting:**

Work Session

July 28, 2004 – 9:00

General Administration Building

Olympia WA

Approved:

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Sharon Colby, FPPB Chair

(Date)